

Management Officer, CIA

1 August 1950

Assistant Director, OSI

Supplementary Comment on Industrial Card File

REFERENCE: (a) Management Officer Memo dtd 18 May 1950
(b) AD/OSI reply dtd 14 July 1950

1. In accordance with your verbal request to [REDACTED] of OSI, supplementary information with respect to Industrial Card File is submitted herein.

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2. The Divisions listed below make use of the Industrial Card File to the extent indicated:

a. Physics Division - Makes considerable use of Industrial Register and generally depends on it "as a repository of industrial information". This precludes the maintenance of like data in analyst's file.

b. Biology Division - Makes use of Industrial Register, chiefly as "a check by which analyst can determine if his information (about a given subject) is complete". In other words, Industrial Register may supplement information maintained by the analyst.

c. Weapons and Medical Divisions - Industrial Card File is of considerable value, particularly for area and point studies. It does supply information not otherwise available unless the analyst expends considerable man-hours in extracting the data from Wringer reports, etc. It is the best overall repository, but this does not preclude the analyst from maintaining data on certain key or priority installations. For this reason, ICF supplements data maintained by analysts only with respect to key installations and obviates the necessity of analysts building up detailed files on all installations of interest.

Only if ICF maintains all of the information in the intelligence community, will it provide a check by which an analyst can determine if his files are complete. The file is not complete enough at present for this purpose, either in Weapons or Medical intelligence.

d. Nuclear Energy Division - The Industrial Card File is used quite often by the U.S.S.R. Branch as a supplement to

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information maintained by the analysts and as a check to determine if there is additional information. The files of the Air Force Target Group are also used in a similar fashion, either independently or in conjunction with ICF, by arrangement with the Air Force member of the JANIC.

Neither the Industrial Register, the Library Card File, or Biographical Register are in themselves complete repositories of abstracts of CIA material, but together they usually provide a complete card file of background industrial and biographic material on any plant or person we may be temporarily or permanently interested in. As they are the only sections of CIA providing facilities for such complete search, they are invaluable and are consulted frequently. It would be utterly impossible for an individual office to maintain an adequate industrial card file to meet all contingencies. However, none of these sections provides a good product index and their usefulness is often thereby considerably restricted.

e. Chemistry Division - The Chemistry Division has found the Industrial Card File maintained by the Industrial Register of considerable value. Within the last year they have been asked to give support to two of our major projects and they have responded with substantial information which was not otherwise available to our analysts. In one of these cases the project originated in the Chemical Corps, and the material which the ICF supplied almost doubled the information already on record.

In the second case, the information received from them was very voluminous but unfortunately did not satisfy our requirements too well because the project was confined to the research and development phase of the subject, and apparently the ICF does not separate this material as such.

As to paragraph "b", namely, the manner in which the information is used, the Division finds that their files are used in all four ways enumerated in Dr. Andrews' memorandum. The most important of these is that they serve as a repository of industrial information, not so much to preclude the maintenance of like data in the analysts' files as to cover those areas which are not of primary interest to the analysts, and on which they do not have time to build up effective files. The Chemistry Division considers this by far the most important function of ICF.

f. Geophysics Division - ICF not used at present

g. Scientific Resources Division - ICF not used at present

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